

Minutes of the Dalwood Parish Annual Meeting
Held Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 7.30pm
Dalwood Village Hall

Present: Cllr Mrs KFG Laing (Chairman) / Cllr AP Benger / Cllr T Hodges (Vice Chairman) / Cllr PH Lawrence / Cllr B Trott / Cllr Mrs CM Wyatt / Mrs D Wiltshire (Minutes) / Mr I Walker (Auditor)

Apologies: Cllr GJ Perry

In attendance: Mr R Beak / Mrs S Beak / Mrs S Cooper / Mr B Eddy / Mrs S Fearnley / Ms N Hobson / Ms S Hobson / Mr J Langman / Mrs L Lucas / Mr O Morgan / Mr L Reed / Mr P Sampson / Mr C Trinder / Mr M Wiltshire

1) Welcome

Cllr Laing welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Guest speakers - Total Renewable Energy

Cllr Trott introduced Mr Luke Reed and Mr Paul Sampson to the meeting from Total Renewable Energy; they gave a short presentation on renewable energy systems including ground source heat and air source heat pumps and PV Solar Panels. During the presentation the attendees were made aware of the Government grant funding which may be available for some community projects; applications are usually via the local district council. Total Renewable Energy has a small showroom in Axminster. At the end of the presentation there was a Q&A session. Mr Reed offered that his presentation would be made available; if anyone would like a copy, they were asked to contact Cllr Trott.

Cllr Trott thanked Mr Reed and Mr Sampson for their presentation.

3) Dalwood Community Shop

Cllr Laing introduced Mrs Shelagh Beak who gave a short talk on the Dalwood Community Shop. Mrs Beak highlighted the following: the shop has been open for 22 years; it is run solely by volunteers; there is a post office which is open on Fridays between 10 and 12noon; the shop is eligible for local government grants which help to make improvements and with running costs; the shop benefits from PV solar panels that are fitted on the rear of the roof; the meeting noted that the trees to the rear of the shop will be cut back in order to make the solar panels more efficient. Work on the long-awaited extension, which will include new disabled facilities, will start in September 2023; weather permitting should conclude by November 2023; the funding has come from the local community and local government grants. Mrs Beak concluded her talk by thanking the volunteers for their continued support, she invited anyone wishing to volunteer to contact Cllr Laing.

Cllr Laing thanked Mrs Beak for her presentation.

4) Dalwood Recreational Trust – DRT

Cllr Laing introduced Mrs Shelagh Fearnley who gave a short presentation on the DRT. Mrs Fearnley was pleased to announce that after 2 years of planning DRT had purchased the Jubilee field for £1 "on demand" from Devon County Council, noting that they are still to demand the funds. Amongst the DRT's achievements, a multi-use gym area (MUGA), a children's play area and picnic tables and chairs have been installed. A new toilet has also been installed; officially opened by Cllr Perry at the King's Coronation celebrations. Recent DRT organised events include the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and King Charles III celebrations; approximately 150 local people attended the coronation event. Mrs Fearnley spoke briefly about the types of fundraising undertaken by the DRT which included curry nights, big breakfasts and car washes; as a community charity the DRT benefits from local

grants. She spoke briefly about the Section 106 grant money available from Devon County Council which is intended for sports, allotments and open space projects; on contacting the Council they were unable to advise how DRT should apply; the DRT will continue to pursue. The DRT currently have 11 Trustees; should anyone like to become a trustee please contact Mrs Fearnley. Mrs Fearnley paid special tribute to the late Ray Bradley and Brian Howard for the work they had done for the DRT.

Cllr Laing thanked Mrs Fearnley for her presentation.

5) Footpaths

Cllr Laing introduced Mr Owain Morgan who gave a short talk on the village footpaths and bridleways. Mr Morgan spoke about the P3 scheme which is to ensure the rights of way network are properly maintained; a grant is obtained from Devon County Council to assist with the maintenance costs. The Scheme's aim is to improve the rights of way across the countryside; the grant covers the maintenance of the footpaths and bridleways include cutting the vegetation. Mr Morgan highlighted the village had 8 miles of footpaths, bridal ways, unclassified roads and one byway to maintain. Recent and future maintenance work includes the replacement of and repairs to pedestrian gate posts, gates, steps and stiles. Mr Morgan thanked Nicola and Sarah Hobson for their assistance with the annual footpath survey.

Cllr Laing thanked Mr Morgan for his presentation.

6) Finances

Cllr Laing introduced Mr Ian Walker who spoke briefly on the Parish Council's Finances. Acknowledging there has been no Parish Clerk for a period of time, there are some outstanding queries that require further review with Cllrs; Mr Walker highlighted that these need to be resolved before he could audit the accounts. Cllr Trott highlighted that the AGAR report was due to be submitted before 3 July. Cllr Trott agreed to contact NALC to engage a locum clerk to assist with the preparation of the accounts.

Cllr Laing thanked Mr Walker for his presentation.

7) Tree Survey of Willow Tree

Cllr Bengier reported that a survey had been carried out on the willow tree. The tree is in good condition; however, the surveyor had made some recommendations, which will extend the life of the tree. The report is available for anyone who would like to review.

8) Parish Clerk

Mr Beak raised whether a Parish Clerk had been engaged, highlighting that there had been one application for the vacancy and one expression of interest reported at the last meeting. Cllr Laing expressed disappointment that the applicant had withdrawn her application as she had been offered a post closer to where she resides. The other interested party had not submitted an application; Cllr Laing agreed to contact the second person to ascertain their interest.

9) Highway Matters

Mr Beak asked whether the Council had received a reply to the request for the village roads to be surveyed. Cllr Bengier stated that the Parish Council had written to highways and had received a lengthy reply. Cllr Hodges agreed to upload the reply to Dalwood Daily so residents could review.

Cllr Laing thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting; she invited attendees to stay for refreshments.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

K G Laing

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